

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 141140Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9636

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3259

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK' UR

SUBJ: DETENTE HAS ITS IRRITANTS IN PAKISTAN

1. IN ISLAMABAD 2670 I MENTIONED INDIRECTLY, IN REPORTING ON A TALK WITH BHUTTO, THAT NEW RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR AZIMOV AND I HAD SOME DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND MATTERS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT ON HIS FIRST PROTOCOL CALL UPON ME. SINCE THAT TIME AGHA SHAHI HAS MORE THAN ONCE MENTIONED TO ME THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BECOME FARE MORE ACTIVE IN PAKISTAN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS. SHAHI KEEPS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH INTELLECTUAL GROUPINGS IN PAKISTAN AND SEEMS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AS TO WHAT SOVIET FRONTS IN THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE UP TO. HE HAS ALSO MENTIONED A GREAT INCREASE IN PROPAGANDA AND OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS WHICH ARE GENERALLY NOT, IN CONTRAST TO OUR PRACTICE, CLEARED WITH THE GOP. OTHER FRIENDLY EMBASSIES ALSO KEEP REPORTING TO US THE EMPHASIS BEING GIVEN BY SOVIET OFFICIALS IN THEIR ACTIVITY HERE ON ATTACKS AGAINST CENTO AND THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AND ELSEWHERE.

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2. I MADE MY FIRST CALL ON AZIMOV THIS MORNING AND

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS THE USUAL ATMOSPHERE OF VODKA TOASTS
OXTO GENERALITIES, OUR MEETING WAS IN FACT SOMEWHAT EDGY.

3. I OPENED THE SERIOUR SIDE OF THE DISCUSSION BY
REFERENCE TO THE MANY QUOTES WE HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM
HIS EMBASSY ABOUT THE REVITALIZATION OF CENTO AT US
INITIATIVE AND THE DANGERS FOR ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING
PAKISTAN, IN SUCH A COURSE. I ASKED IF HE COULD GIVE ME
CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THEY MEANT BY THE "REVITALIZATION"
OF CENTO. ASIMOV SEEMED SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK ND THEN
LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE EVILS OF "PACTS"
IN GENERAL. WHEN HE FINISHED I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE I
UNDERSTOOD AND THOROUGHLY DISAGREED WITH HIS
CHARACTERIZATION OF MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE
WEST, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT HE HAD NOT ADDRESSED HIMSELF
TO THE QUESTION I HAD POSED. HE THEN TALKED ABOUT
CENTO MILITARY MANEUVERS, THE RECENT CENTO MILITARY
MEETING HERE AND THE VISIT OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL.
I SAID THAT IN HIS NEWNESS TO THIS AREA HE MIGHT WELL
NOT REALIZE THAT THE THINGS HE WAS PEAKING OF HAD BEEN
ROUTINE FOR MANY YEARS. THE HOSTS FOR MILITARY COMBINED
MANEUVERS VARIED AMONG THE THREE REGIONAL MEMBERS OF
CENTO AND WERE HELD ANNUALLY. SIMILARLY, THE HOST
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ROTATED
AMONG THE FIVE MEMBERS. IT WAS PURE COINCIDENCE THAT
PAKISTAN HAPPENED TO BE THE HOST NEXT IN LINE FOR THESE
TWO OCCASIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL
ALWASY VISITED ALL FIVE COUNTRIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
ORGANIZATION. I SAID I COULD NOT HELP WONDER, THEREFORE,
IF HE WAS NOT PAYING TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT HAD BECOME
OVER THE YEARS MATTERS OF ROUTINE. HE CHOSE TO EVADE THE
ISSUE IN HIS REPLY.

4. IT MAY BE THAT I CARRIED ALL THIS A BIT TOO FAR BUT
I WAS PERSONALLY INCENSED BY AN OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE
OF THE PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR EMBASSY
IN KARACHI ON APRIL 4 THAT HAD AS ITS LEAD ITEM A TWO
PAGE ARTICLE FROM PRAVDA DATELINED MOSCOW ON APRIL 3
UNDER THE TIELE "DOES CIA HAVE A HAND IN KING FAISAL'S
ASSASSINATION"? I REFERRED TO THIS AFTER A LENGTHY COMMENT

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BY HIM AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE IN THE WORLD AND IN
SOUTH ASIAN IN PARTICULAR, AS BEING AN ITEM WHICH I COULD
HARDLY CHARACTERIZE AS BEING IN THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE.
I TOLD HIM THAT THE US HAD CONSIDERABLE FACILITIES IN
PAKISTAN BUT THAT WE HAD NEVER ONCE, AT LEAST DURING
MY TENURE HERE, USED ANY OF THESE TO CRITICIZE EITHER
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THE SOVIET UNION. HE PROFESSED
NOT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS NEWS RELEASE ALTHOUGH I FEEL

ALMOST CERTAIN THAT HE DID IN FACT HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF IT. UPON GLANCING AT IT HE SAID IT WAS ALL BASED UPON COMMENT BY FOREIGN OBSERVERS OR FOREIGN PRESS ACCOUNTS. I REPLIED THAT IF THIS WERE SO THE NEWS RELEASE WAS NOT SPECIFIC AS REGARDS SUCH SOURCES. I SAID HE MUST BE AWARE THAT WASHINGTON HAD OFFICIALLY DECLARED THIS AS AN "MALICIOUS LIE" AND IT SEEMED TO ME STRANGE INDEED THAT IT WOULD BE OFFICIALLY RELEASED BY HIS MISSION IN A THIRD COUNTRY SUCH AS PAKISTAN. I SAID IN ADDITION TO THE PROPRIETY OF SUCH AN ISSUANCE, IT CERTAINLY WOULD ALSO SEEM TO VIOLATE GOP INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL MISSIONS IN LATE 1970 AGAINST SUCH ATTACKS BY ANY MISSION UPON A THIRD COUNTRY. AZIMOV ASKED HIS INTERPRETER TO TAKE DOWN THE DATE AND NUMBER OF THEIR PRESS HANDOUT, SAYING HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. (WE SUBSEQUENTLY SENT A NOTE TO MFA CALLING THE GOP'S ATTENTION TO THIS VIOLATION OF THE THIRD COUNTRY RULE).

5. AZIMOV CHOSE TO VIEW WITH ALARM OUR RECENT POLICY DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON PAKISTAN AND INDIA, WITH HIS PRIMARY POINT BEING THAT THIS AREA NEEDED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND NOT MILITARY ASSISTANCE. (HE HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY MADE THIS POINT ELSEWHERE IN ISLAMABAD). AT THE END OF HIS DISCOURSE I TOLD HIM I FOUND HIS REMARKS INCREDIBLE AS HE HAD MANAGED TO AVOID NEARLY ALL OF THE REALITIES IN THE AREA, ALL THE WAY FROM OUR OWN VAST ECONOMIC AID TO PAKISTAN TO THE SOVIETS' SUPPLY OVER THE YEARS OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS. HE DID NOT SEEM VERY HAPPY WITH MY RESPONSE.

6. I DO NOT KNOW QUITE WHAT TO MAKE OF AZIMOV. BHUTTO TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HEARD HE WAS A VERY CAPABLE AND BRILLIANT MAN. COMMENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES ARE SOMEWHAT SECRET

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IN THE OPPOSITE VEIN. THE QUESTION ARISES IS HE ACTING ON HIS OWN OR UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT OUT OF CHARACTER COMPARED TO OTHER SOVIET AMBASSADORS I HAVE SERVED WITH FOR HIM TO PERSONALLY GET SO FAR OUT FRONT IN HANDLING HIS MISSION. SOME OF MY STAFF AND OTHER FRIENDLY EMBASSIES CONSIDER RECENT ACTIVITIES VIGOROUS ENOUGH TO INDICATE THAT IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS.

7. WE BOTH MADE AN EFFORT TO KEEP PERSONAL RELATIONS FRIENDLY AND WE AGREED TO MEET FROM TIME TO TIME FOR DIRECT DISCUSSION (BUT I DOUBT ANY FUTURE INITIATIVE ON HIS PART). HE FOLLOWED THROUGH NICELY WITH A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES FOR MY WIFE, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CUT AND PACKAGED UP SO NICELY HAD

HE KNOWN IN ADVANCE OF THE NATURE OF OUR CONVERSATION.
BYROADE

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